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A NEW GENUS OF STERCULIACEÆ, AND SOME OTHER  
NOTEWORTHY PLANTS.

**Nephropetalum**, n. gen. of *Sterculiaceæ*.—Calyx deeply 5-parted; segments ovate. Petals 5, unguiculate, slightly adnate at base to the staminal cup, free at the apex; blade small, reniform with a deep sinus at the attachment of the claw, concave, neither appendaged nor glandular. Stamens 5, united into a short cup; anthers 3-locular, sessile or nearly so, extrorse; cells parallel and longitudinally dehiscent. Staminodes 5, alternate with the stamens and opposite the sepals, rounded and cucullate at the summit. Ovary sessile, globose, 5-celled; cells 2-ovuled; ovules superposed on axial placentæ; style short, terete; stigma capitate. Young fruit globose, covered with very numerous pubescent processes; seeds by abortion solitary in the cells.—Stellate-tomentulose unarmed shrub with simple alternate ovate dentate petiolate leaves and small flowers in short axillary cymes. Most nearly related to *Ayenia* and *Buettneria*, and differing from the former in its free reniform petals and sessile ovary; from the latter in the entire absence of the appendage of the petals as well as in a very different habit. The origin and application of the generic name is apparent from the description.

**N. Pringlei**, n. sp.—Stem terete and nearly glabrate: leaves ovate, cordate with a narrow sinus, acuminate to an obtusish apex, crenate-dentate, palmately 7-nerved from the base, finely stellate-pubescent above, paler and tomentulose beneath,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  to 5 inches in length,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 inches broad: petioles canescent-tomentulose,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches long: stipules setaceous, deciduous, nearly 2 lines long: axillary umbelliform cymes 2 or 3-flowered, about an inch in length; the peduncles about equaling the pedicels: greenish flowers only a line in diameter.—Collected by C. G. Pringle, at Hidalgo, Texas, August 6, 1888 (no. 2272).

**CORDYLANTHUS PILOSUS** Gray, var. **trifidus**, n. var.—Pubescence duplex, consisting of a short close glandular puberulence and a loose spreading villosity: leaves broader than in the type, oblong rather than linear, distinctly 3-nerved, mostly 3-cleft below the middle: bracts also trifid; segments linear, entire, obtuse, somewhat dilated at the ends; the lateral spreading.—Collected by J. W. Congdon, on Chowchilla creek, Mariposa county, California, August 9, 1895 (no. 81).

AN INTRODUCED OROBANCHE, NEW TO AMERICA.—In July, 1895, Mr. J. A. Morton of Wingham, Ontario, collected on a lawn at that

place an orobanchaceous parasite, not referable to any species characterized in American floras. He accordingly forwarded specimens of the plant to the Gray Herbarium for identification, and it has proved to be *Orobanche purpurea* Jacq. Enum. Stirp. Vindob. 108: 252 (*O. cærulea* Vill. Hist. Pl. Dauph. 2: 406; *Phelipæa cærulea* C. A. Mey. Enum. Cauc. 104), a species of wide distribution in Europe and Asia. There is no doubt that it was introduced in its Canadian occurrence, and probably with grass seed. Mr. Morton notes the fact that it was found growing "among *Achillea Millefolium*." This fact, of course, adds further proof of the identity of the American and European plants, since also in the Old World this species is regularly parasitic upon *Achillea Millefolium*.

A hasty search through recent American botanical literature has failed to show any reference to the presence of *Orobanche purpurea* Jacq. Reports of other localities may be awaited with interest. A very curious parasite, which attacks chiefly, if not exclusively, a common and noxious weed, is far from being the most undesirable sort of immigrant. The genus *Orobanche* is, of course, most nearly related to our American genus *Aphyllon*, so closely in fact that the two are united by some European authorities. The former, however, is in general readily distinguished by its 4-lobed calyx, the calyx of *Aphyllon* being 5-cleft. *Orobanche purpurea* Jacq. has the habit of *Aphyllon Ludovicianum* Gray. The only other *Orobanche* that has been introduced into the American flora is *O. minor* L., a variable species, which, however, has flowers ebracteolate, while in *O. purpurea* the flowers are subtended not only by conspicuous single bracts but also in each case by a pair of lance-linear attenuate bractlets. The whole plant is very glandular pubescent. Although a number of individuals were found, Mr. Morton regards the species as of very recent introduction in his locality.

*ELYTRARIA VIRGATA* Michx., var. *angustifolia* Fernald, n. var.—Leaves linear or narrowly oblanceolate, 3 to 4 inches long, barely  $\frac{1}{3}$  inch wide: scape more slender and bracts of the scape shorter and more appressed than in the type, from which it does not otherwise differ.—An extreme form, hardly worthy of specific rank, collected in thin calcareous soil near Biscayne Bay, Fla., by A. H. Curtiss, July 23, 1895 (no. 5494).

*Hemizonia Congdonii*, n. sp.—Low annual or perhaps biennial, much branched from the base, covered especially below with a copious loose lanate pubescence: root slender-fusiform, somewhat branched:

woolly stems white striate-angulate, lucid, leafy: lower leaves pinnatifid, 2 inches or more in length, not rigid nor pungent tipped, 1-nerved, with about 6 pairs of unequal dentate segments, these obtusish or acute, diminishing in size toward the winged clasping petiole; middle and upper leaves inch or less in length, rigidulous, pinnately 3 to 7-toothed with spinulose-tipped pungent teeth, soft-pubescent on both sides and somewhat revolute on the margins: heads terminal or sub-terminal on the branches, only moderately aggregated, including the spreading bracts 6 to 8 lines long; the bracts green except at the pungent tip, entire or rarely 3-toothed, with midrib prominent beneath and considerably thickened toward the base: ray-flowers including the achenes only  $2\frac{1}{2}$  lines long, ligules 15 to 18, yellow, 3-toothed at the apex; the tube very glandular-pubescent; the pappus of the disk-flowers 3 erect narrow awns, nearly equaling the yellow corolla: chaff 2 lines long, scarious-margined and with thickened somewhat recurved tips.—Collected by Mr. J. W. Congdon, at Salinos, Monterey county, California, May 26, 1886 (no. 151). Most nearly related to *H. Parryi* Greene, but of lower stature, and with very different woolly pubescence, more divided foliage, and shorter ray-flowers.—B. L. ROBINSON and J. M. GREENMAN, *Harvard University*.